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Hartford Irishwoman was heroine of suffrage drive

Catherine Flanagan arrested picketing at White House in 1917 for women's right to vote

Hartford suffragist Catherine M. Flanagan, in white dress and sash, was arrested at the White House on Aug. 17, 1917, while picketing for women's voting rights. (Photo from Library of Congress American Memory Project)

When Catherine M. Flanagan went on vacation in 1917, the whole nation, right up to President Woodrow Wilson, got involved.

Flanagan was 28 years old that summer. One of seven children of Irish natives John J. and Bridget E. Flanagan, she was living at 56 Willard St., Hartford, with her widowed mother. Her father was said to have come to America "because of his efforts in the movement for Irish freedom."

Born in 1889, Catherine was the second oldest of the Flanagan children, all of whom were born in Connecticut. On census returns, her mother listed the year of her immigration as 1880. Catherine was a stenographer and, for several years prior to 1917, was the secretary at the state headquarters of the Connecticut Woman's Suffrage Association in Hartford.

Her heart obviously was very much in her work for when she left for vacation the first week in August 1917, she did not head for the shore or the mountains, but for Washington, D.C. She went to join what historian Linda J. Lumsden has described as "one of the most dramatic episodes of civil disobedience in American history."

Suffragists, or "suffragettes," as their detractors preferred to call them, had been lobbying for women's right to vote since the Civil War. By the second decade of the 20th century, they had about run out of patience. In some Western states, women were granted the franchise, but in the country as a whole, the male movers and shakers continued to withhold that basic democratic right from them.

On Jan. 10, 1917, two allied suffragist groups — the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage and the National Woman's Party — began picketing the White House in a campaign to bring the issue to a head in a way that could not be ignored. At first, they were met with polite indifference. President Wilson acknowledged their presence with a tip of his hat when he passed through the White House gates, but gave no indication that he would act on their demand that he take the lead in pushing for an

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Important meeting scheduled Feb. 11

A general membership meeting of the CIAHS has been scheduled at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Ethnic Heritage Center in New Haven. The center is located at 270 Fitch St. on the campus of Southern Connecticut State University. We hope there will be a large turnout of members to discuss several important topics. They include:

2006 programs — Suggestions are being sought from all members for activities and projects for our organization during 2006. The more members who get involved in deciding on and organizing activities for the year, the more varied our program will be and the more attractive it

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Rebel heritage evident in Hartford suffrage leader

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amendment to the Constitution to give them the right to vote.

When the United States went to war with Germany in April that year, the picketing scene turned ugly. The women were accused of aiding the enemy and harming national security. Even some other suffragists thought the picketing should wait until the war was won.

When Catherine Flanagan arrived in Washington from Hartford on Aug. 5, the situation around the White House was tense. The pickets were being harassed frequently by bystanders, some of them Navy personnel, and the government had already begun to make occasional arrests.

Flanagan took her turn at the White House gates for two weeks. During the second week, the women were attacked by the crowd, and their banners were taken from them and torn apart.

On the afternoon of Aug. 16, the government indicated that it would no longer tolerate picketing at the White House because of the danger of people being hurt. No effort was made to exercise better control over the bystanders, but the women who had picketed peacefully every day for more than six months were told to disperse.

When they refused, Flanagan and five others were arrested. They were taken before a city judge, released on bail and ordered to appear the next day. At the hearing, the judge found them all guilty of disrupting traffic and sentenced them to 30 days in the District of Columbia workhouse at Occoquan, Va.

The *Hartford Courant* commented that when Flanagan, "closed her desk in her little office on Pratt Street and picked Washington as a good place to spend 30 days of a well earned rest, she had no idea that her vacation would become a matter for the consideration of the President of the United States, but such was the case yesterday when Connecticut suffragists sent telegrams of protest to Mr. Wilson as the result of her arrest on the White House picket line."

Cartoonist Boardman Robinson portrayed the irony of American women being arrested for seeking voting rights even as the United States, under the guise of making the world safe for democracy, waged war against totalitarian European states. The cartoon appeared in the New York Call and was reprinted in Suffragist, the newspaper of the National Woman's Party, in September 1917.

Complaints soon surfaced about conditions at the workhouse. One female reporter wrote, "The food is so bad they are unable to eat it, and are living on bread and water. No food can be taken or sent them by friends. The new uniforms are hot and heavy ... The prison shoes do not fit ... The picket prisoners are not allowed to read, nor to have books or papers sent to them."

In response, several congressmen toured the workhouse and said they found it suitable. Flanagan responded that if the congressmen spent 25 days as prisoners, rather than as visitors escorted by the warden, they would come away from Occoquan with a different opinion of conditions there.

Controversy over Flanagan erupted not only in Washington, but also back in Connecticut where her arrest became the final straw in a growing dispute in the ranks of suffragists. The split, between those who favored continuing their traditional strategy of gentle persuasion and the more militant suffragists, broke into the open in the state's newspapers. The day after the arrest, one suffragist, Mabel C. Washburn, stated in a letter to the *Hartford Courant*, "The Connecticut Woman's Suffrage Association is a branch of the National Woman's Suffrage Association, which is opposed to the tactics of the woman's party, the organization carrying on the picketing at Washington ... It was a complete surprise to me, on reaching Hartford on August 1, to learn how and where Miss Flanagan had planned to spend her vacation. During that vacation her time is hers to spend as she chooses."

Grace Thompson Seton of Greenwich, vice president of the CWSA, also criticized Flanagan, stating that the organization "most emphatically does not endorse picketing at the White House at this time."

Seton's comments were seconded by the *Courant* itself which stated, in an editorial, "So the National Woman's Suffrage Association has the good taste to refrain from unpatriotic and pro-German activities at least during the war. Mrs. Seton speaks more patriotically than some of our Hartford suffragists have done."

On the other side, the president of the state association, Mrs. Thomas N. Hepburn, mother of actress Catharine Hepburn, defended the arrested pickets. "I admire Miss Flanagan very much for being willing to go to jail for her convictions," said Hepburn. "It is more than most people could even conceive of doing for an ideal ... She consulted me before she left and I told her that that was my opinion. If she prefers to spend her vacation working to make our own country safe for democracy ... it behooves those who are less public spirited to try to comprehend her unselfish devotion."

Hepburn also responded to those men who accused Flanagan and the other picketing women of being unpatriotic for pushing their cause during wartime: "Suppose the country had gone to war to make the world safe for democracy and millions of American men here at home were disenfranchised. Would the men submit to such a ludicrous and intolerant position? I do not believe so. I believe that the protests which the women are making are conspicuous for their mildness compared with what the men would do in women's present position."

Mrs. M. Tuscan Bennett, treasurer of the CWSA, told the *Courant* the same day, "The arrest and conviction of Miss Catherine Flanagan ... for participating in picketing at the

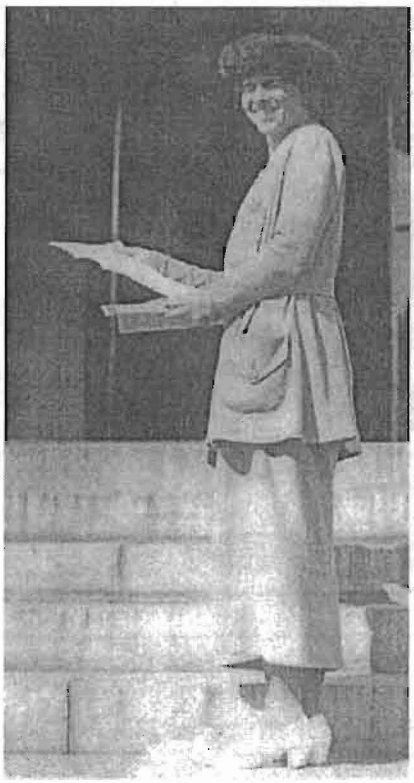
White House arouses my indignation. We are indeed in a sad state of affairs in this country when the government uses its strong arm to protect disorderly mobs in their cowardly assault upon American women, who are still fighting after 50 years for a principle which was held to be a self-evident truth nearly a century and a half ago: namely that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Flanagan received support, too, from the Hartford People's Council for Democracy and Peace. William O'Brien, chairman of the council, sent letters to President Wilson and Congressman Augustine Lonergan. The letters stated, "The (council), representing organizations containing 1,300 members, protests against the arrest and outrageous treatment of American women in Washington who are so peacefully petitioning for the redress of grievances, and demanding that the government protect them in their constitutional rights."

Debate proved insufficient to resolve the differences among the suffragists, and in mid-September Hepburn and Bennett resigned from the CWSA. "Both of us believe the National Woman's Party, which we are going to join, is a more active force for suffrage than the National Woman's Suffrage Association ...," said Hepburn. The party, she explained, "believes in picketing and in organizing the women in the states where the suffrage is now in force to vote against that party which refuses to support a federal amendment allowing women to have the suffrage."

The NWSA, she said, was 50 years old and while it had done good work, the times called for a more aggressive policy.

Meanwhile, Flanagan had been freed from jail and arrived back in Hartford around the middle of September. She seemed to be as feisty as before undergoing her prison ordeal. "I am perfectly willing to go back on to the picket line," she told reporters. "I feel that it is a little thing to do toward the accomplishment of such a great purpose, especially since it seems to be the only thing left for us to do now."



Somber in the photo on page one, when she was arrested in 1917, suffragist Catherine Flanagan, the daughter of Irish parents who immigrated to Hartford, beamed in September 1920 as she delivered to the U.S. secretary of state official notice of Connecticut's ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. (Photo Library of Congress American Memory Project)

Flanagan indicated, too, that she intended to follow the example of the high-ranking officers of the CWSA. She said she would resign from the association because she believed that the picketing at the White House was worthwhile. She said she would join the National Woman's Party and do what she could to bring about the extension of the voting franchise to women.

Flanagan did become more involved than ever in the suffrage movement. Carole Nichols, who wrote a history of the suffrage movement in Connecticut, calls Flanagan a CSWA organizer and an "organization secretary for the National Woman's Party." Nichols also indicates that in 1918, Flanagan traveled to Montana to work in the campaign of Jeannette Rankin, the first woman elected to Congress.

In June 1919, Congress approved the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting full voting rights to women. For the amendment to become valid, it was necessary for three-fourths of the states, 36 of 48 states, to ratify it. Flanagan "had a prominent part," reported the *Hartford Times*, in campaigns to secure ratification not only in Connecticut, but also in the states of Delaware, West Virginia, Vermont and Tennessee. After a bitter struggle, the latter became the 36th state to ratify the amendment in late August 1920.

At that point, Connecticut still remained on the fence, neither ratifying nor rejecting the amendment. A special session of the General Assembly was held on Sept. 15, and legislators approved the amendment — 25-0 in the Senate and 194-9 in the House. Gov. Marcus Holcomb continued to drag his feet, casting doubt on the validity of the passage and calling a second special session for Sept. 21. However, Connecticut Secretary of the State Frederick Perry accepted the legislature's vote as valid and signed a certified copy of the resolution of ratification for transmittal to Washington.

The esteem which her work had won for Flanagan became obvious when state suffrage leaders suggested she be commissioned to carry the resolution to the nation's capital. Flanagan left Hartford, probably by train, Tuesday evening, Sept. 14, 1920, just three years and one month after her momentous trip in 1917. The next day, she presented the historic document to U.S. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby, who accepted it as valid proof of Connecticut's endorsement of the amendment.

The 1920 U.S. census reveals that Flanagan was still living with her mother, Bridget, at 4 Vernon St. in Hartford. Shortly thereafter, both their names disappear from Hartford census records and directories. Perhaps one of our members could shed light on her later life.

Sources: Bridgeport Herald, Sept. 23, 1917. Hartford Courant, Aug. 18-25 and Sept. 13-16, 1917; Sept. 15, 1920. Hartford Daily Times, Sept. 15, 20, 1920. Meriden Morning Record, Aug. 26-Sept. 21, 1920. Library of Congress, Records of the National Woman's Party, American Memory Project. Geer's Hartford Directory, 1886-1920. Suffragist newspaper, Aug.-Sept. 1917. Rampant women: Suffragists and the right of assembly by Linda J. Lumsden. Votes and More for Woman: Suffrage and After in Connecticut by Carole Nichols.

Flanagan described her 1917 'vacation' in Bridgeport newspaper

On Sept. 23, 1917, the Bridgeport Weekly Herald published Catherine Flanagan's own account of her picketing and arrest at the White House. Below is an excerpt from that account.

"When the picketing started early this year, I saw that it was going to be of great help to the suffrage cause because it drew so much attention to the question of suffrage and the federal amendment. Of course, I could not get away until the time of my vacation arrived, which was Aug. 1. As soon as the time came, I left for Washington to assist in the picketing. I took my place on the picket line on Aug. 5 and for a number of days I was not molested by the police or anyone else.

"On Aug. 14, we were attacked by sailors in uniform and by government clerks who tore our banners from us. The police did nothing in the way of intervention. The following day at 12 o'clock, we again went out with banners. They were immediately seized. This included banners bearing quotations from President Wilson's speeches, and the purple, white and gold standards of the National Woman's Party. For three days, the 14th when we were attacked by the sailors and clerks, the 15th and the 16th, we were constantly faced by curious throngs.

"On the 16th, sailors and government clerks, not satisfied with tearing our banners down at the White House gates, came to the door of our headquarters and as soon as a suffragist stepped over the threshold with a banner, it was torn from her hands. They also tore from the balconies of the headquarters our standards, a number of quotation-bearing banners and the United States flag. (Those) that could not be torn down by the expedient of a long pole with nails in the end were reached by means of a ladder which a sailor had secured from the Belasco Theater. This ladder reached our second story. As the banners were ripped down, they were torn into pieces by the leaders and distributed among the crowds. By this time, sailors in the crowd had secured tomatoes and eggs, which they threw at the building and at the girls who were holding banners.

"A shot was fired through the second story window, although I personally did not see the person who fired it. I was on the stairs when the shot came through the window and imbedded itself in the ceiling. The bullet proved to be of .38 caliber. Three suffragists were sitting on the window seat when the shot passed through the window 12 inches above their heads.

"Within five minutes of the firing of the shot and while the crowds were storming our headquarters, Miss Catherine Morey of Boston and I were asked to go to the White House gates and hold a banner. It was impossible to pass through the jam in front of our headquarters, so we went out the rear way over the back fence. This brought us to Pennsylvania Avenue whence we went directly to the White House.

"We held our banner there for 17 minutes unmolested. Then a sailor – I recognized him as a member of the front rank of the banner confiscators at headquarters – caught sight of the banner and immediately raced to the White House gates. As soon as he reached us, he tore the banner from our hands. The two policemen who were on the scene said not a word.

"The following day, the 16th, we went out on the picket line once more. At 4 o'clock, the police started to confiscate our banners. They forcibly took 39 of them from us.

"We went back to headquarters and came out with colors. As we stood in front of the White House gates with our colors on the afternoon of the same day on which our headquarters had been stormed, the police kept the people moving and had no trouble in doing so, so that at one time 19 pickets stood at the White House gates.

"At 6 o'clock, when it was time to go in, the police escorted the pickets across Pennsylvania Avenue and they were unmolested until they got to Madison Avenue when they were immediately set upon and 17 banners destroyed. One of the pickets was knocked down and kicked by men in the crowd.

"On the following day, the 17th, when we appeared we were ordered to move on. There were two of us at the east gate of the White House and two at the west gate. When the police officer told us to move on, we protested, saying that we were within our constitutional rights in standing there, that pickets had stood at the White House gates for five months and that I personally had been standing there for 13 days. I stood there for three and one quarter hours holding a banner which said: 'Mr. President, how long must we wait for liberty?' I was warned that I would be arrested if I did not move on. In the meantime, the chief of the Washington police, Major Pullman, had called at the headquarters of the National Woman's Party and stated that if we persisted in staying out on the picket line, we would be

This sketch of Catherine M. Flanagan appeared in the Bridgeport Herald of Sept. 23, 1917, with her narrative of her arrest and imprisonment in Washington. The Connecticut State Library has a collection of the papers of the Connecticut Woman's Suffrage Association where Flanagan was secretary during the crucial years when American women finally won the right to vote.

arrested. He added that pickets already out would not be arrested as they had not been sufficiently warned.

"At 3:15 we went in for luncheon and returned to the picket line at 4 o'clock. Sometime during the early part of the afternoon, the police had been heard to say to men in the crowds, 'Nothing doing; come back at 4 o'clock.' During the three and one quarter hours that I stood on the picket line early in the afternoon, several policemen and two policewomen had been doing what might be called sentinel duty. They had very little to do, however, as the people made no attempt to form themselves into a crowd.

"When I came back at 4 o'clock there was not a policeman in sight. Directly in front of us stood a crowd of urchins, ranging in age from about eight to 12, who, urged on by a few men who stood around, were making unpleasant remarks to and about the pickets. At 4:30, the time when the government clerks were released, a curious crowd formed expecting to see what they called "some fun." Capt. Flathers of the Washington police force was on the opposite side of the street. I happened to look over and see him come directly toward us. He made his way through the crowd and without ordering any of the people to move on, came straight to me saying all in one breath, "Move on, you are under arrest." He led me to the curb where a policewoman stood. My three companions were also taken into custody and turned over to the policewomen. The patrol was just around the corner. The four of us were put in the patrol with our banners. Just at this time, two pickets were on the way from headquarters to take their place at the White House gates with a large framed sign which said, 'The government orders our banners destroyed because they tell the truth.' The girls were picked up and charged, as we were, with obstructing traffic.

"We were taken to the police court and released on $25 bail until the following morning at 9:30 when we appeared to answer the charges against us. The only witnesses against us were the police officer who made the arrest. Two witnesses were called for our side, one of them testifying that she heard a police officer make the statement to a man in the crowd, 'Nothing doing; come back at 4 o'clock.' Our other witness testified that she had heard one police officer say to another, 'The law today is move on.' It will be remembered that we were protected the day before.

"We were charged with obstructing traffic and unlawful assembly. I was in charge of our defense. As soon as the witnesses had concluded, the judge pronounced the sentence of $10 or 30 days. There was no summing up of the case by the district attorney. We all rose on pronouncement of the sentence and said we wished to speak in our own behalf.

"Four of us spoke in our own behalf, one of the pickets being ordered by the judge to sit down. She had merely stated that in standing in front of the White House she had simply been petitioning the president for the federal amendment.

"As soon as these words were uttered, Judge Pugh ordered her to sit down. This was the same as saying, 'Stick to answering the charge of obstructing traffic.' After we had made our statements, the same sentence was announced.

"Of course, we refused to pay the fine, which would have been an admission of guilt. So we were bundled off to spend 30 days in the workhouse."

New York Irish suffragist led picketing

A New York Irishwoman was one of two key leaders in the 1917 suffagrists' picketing campaign at the White House. Lucy Burns was born in Brooklyn in 1879 of Irish Catholic parents. A student of linguistics, she attended Yale University in New Haven and Vassar before going to Europe where she continued her studies at the University of Berlin and at Oxford. While in England, she became involved in the British suffrage movement led by Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst. A talented street speaker, Burns worked for women's right to vote in Scotland, and was arrested a number of times, the last in London while demonstrating outside the parliament. While in jail, she met another American, Alice Paul, a Pennsylvania Quaker who was equally ardent in the cause of securing the vote for women. When they returned to the United States, Burns and Paul were instrumental in the founding of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage which evolved into the National Woman's Party. The Profiles of Selected Leaders of the National Woman's Party in the Library of Congress describe Burns as "a driving force behind the picketing of President Woodrow Wilson's administration beginning in January 1917." Burns and a companion, Dora Lewis, infuriated the administration when in June, several months after the United States had entered World War I, they greeted the Russian ambassador at the White House gates with a 10-foot-long banner declaring, "We women of America tell you that America is not a democracy." A man ripped the banner from them and tore it to shreds.

Like Catherine Flanagan, Lucy Burns, above, was jailed in the Occoquan Workhouse.

Two days later, Burns and another protester were charged with obstructing the sidewalk in the first of a long series of arrests. That summer and autumn, Burns was arrested repeatedly. At the Occoquan workhouse she instigated hunger strikes and was brutally force fed. On what became known as the "Night of Terror" on Nov. 15, she was one of the suffragists beaten by jailors and handcuffed with her hands above her head. She remained active in the suffragist movement until after passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, then spent the rest of her life working within the Catholic Church. She died in 1966 in Brooklyn.

Ethnic Heritage Center appoints executive director and archivist

A new executive director and archivist have been retained by The Ethnic Heritage Center in New Haven.

Ann Clifford Newhall of East Haven has been named executive director and Joan Cavanagh of New Haven has been appointed archivist for the center, whose headquarters is at 270 Fitch St., on the campus of Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. The two part-time positions are funded through a grant from the state of Connecticut.

Newhall and Cavanagh will work with the ethnic historical organizations that comprise the center — African-American, Italian, Jewish, Ukrainian and Irish historical societies — to strengthen programs, increase and organize archives, promote outreach with other institutions and formulate long-range plans.

Newhall earned master's degrees in American history from Southern Connecticut State University, and in American studies from Yale University.

She planned, directed and administered grant programs, educational activities, publications and research services for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission in Washington from 1998 to 2002.

She previously served as administrator of the archives of the Ford Foundation in New York City, and head of the archives, records and communication unit of the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva, Switzerland, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome.

Cavanagh is presently archivist of the Greater New Haven Labor History Association. She not only collects and organizes labor archives, but also writes grants, organizes such projects as walking tours and exhibits, writes and edits publications and manages the association's office.

She is a graduate of Wesleyan University with a bachelor's degree in history. She also earned a master's degree in library science from Simmons College and a doctorate in United States history from Yale.

She is active in the Connecticut Peace Coalition, New Haven branch, and in the Connecticut Network to Abolish the Death Penalty.

Newspaper editor Leeney publishes book of his weekly columns

In 1974, Robert J. Leeney, then editor of the *New Haven Register* and *New Haven Journal-Courier,* began to write a column titled Editor's Note in the Saturday edition of those newspapers.

His career already spanned 34 years, during which time he covered city news, edited the book page, wrote editorials, was drama critic, and served as editor for 20 years.

In his first Saturday essay, he wrote that the column was designed to be "a series of weekly comments on matters that relate to the coverage of news and other questions of editorial interest in the New Haven newspapers."

Leeney could have looked upon the column as a short-term assignment leading up to his retirement in 1981. And, he might have kept a narrow focus and written only on items relating to journalism.

Fortunately, he did neither. The date of his retirement came and went, but the column, far from fading away, blossomed into a 25-year extension of his career. Its focus widened, too, to include everything from recollections of growing up in New Haven in the 1920s to thoughts on the impact of superhighways on communities.

Robert J. Leeney

Observing, examining and offering wisdom on events and trends, Editor's Note became a staple in the truest sense of that marketplace term—a major commodity regularly stocked and in constant demand.

It is not uncommon today at social, cultural and business events in the south central Connecticut region to hear someone say, "By the way, did you read what Bob Leeney had to say about that in his column this week?"

Now, Leeney, whose father was an immigrant from County Limerick and whose mother was Irish-American, has bundled a choice selection of his columns, or portions of columns, into a book.

Titled *Habitations,* from a Shakespearean reference to giving a local place and setting to things unknown, the 300-page paperback has a comfortable feel to it in size as well as content. Leeney writes with none of the anger and pomposity that seem so pervasive in books about public issues today.

Between the attractive covers are about 100 essays, the longest four or five pages, the shortest just a few paragraphs. The topics, like good conversation, wander here and there — from fond recollections on ice cream as it was served in the good, old days to thoughts on the proliferation of advertising inserts in today's newspapers.

What makes the book especially attractive for history buffs are the author's reminiscences of New Haven: Memorial Day as it was a half century ago; the glorious era of the city's Shubert theater where plays got a test run before moving, or not moving, to Broadway; the nuns of St. Francis Convent on Ferry Street; and St. Patrick's Day in the city in the 1920s.

Especially touching, too, are a few instances in which Leeney shares personal milestones from his life — the joy of his journey home from the Pacific at the end of World War II, and the painful loss of Anne, his spouse and partner of 50 years.

At $22.95, *Habitations* is a bargain. It is available at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in North Haven, R.J. Julia Booksellers in Madison and Breakwater Books in Guilford.

Planning meeting set for Feb. 11

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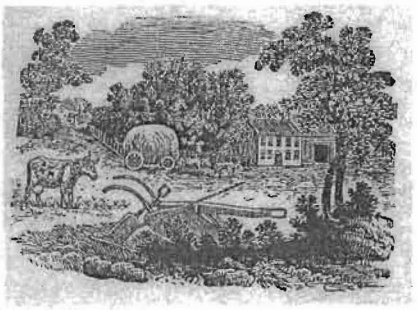
will be to the membership. The range of activities is virtually limitless — from speakers and film presentations to hands-on genealogy workshops and from social outings to fund-raisers. So please attend the meeting and be heard.

Baseball project — One 2006 initiative is already off to a good start thanks to a generous $500 grant provided by the Ethnic Heritage Center. The center awarded us the money for our proposal to research and collect stories and pictures about Connecticut Irish involvement in baseball. For starters, it has been suggested that we establish a special collection of the baseball materials and that we plan an exhibit later this year about Connecticut Irish baseball players, managers, fans, umpires, etc. Sounds like fun.

Election of officers — At a general membership meeting in November the CIAHS bylaws were amended. The revised bylaws call for an election of officers at a meeting in March each year. At the Feb. 11 meeting, a nominating committee will be appointed to put together a slate of nominees. Also, we should set a date for the annual meeting in March.

Ethnic Center — With a large state grant, the Ethnic Heritage Center recently was able to retain an executive director and an archivist (story on page 6). At the Feb. 11, we want to discuss how the new director, Ann Clifford Newhall, and new archivist, Joan Cavanagh, can help us with our Irish programs and how we can help them strengthen the heritage center itself.

Waterbury pastor had a green thumb



Father Farrell Martin was a man of the soil as well as a man of the cloth.

In 1892, Father Martin was appointed first pastor of Waterbury's new St. Cecilia's parish. The parish was formally organized on April 24 that year to serve the city's growing German population. Martin was appointed pastor in November. A lot was purchased on Scoville Street at a cost of $7,500 for construction of the church. Construction began in May 1894 and the church was dedicated in November that year.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Martin was a student of agriculture. He reportedly had taken an interest in farming while in college and had spent several years touring the rural countryside of Germany, France and England. Two years after the construction of St. Cecilia's, Martin learned that a farm in the western section of Bristol was for sale.

The farm had been in the Carrington family for generations. During the Civil War, Silas Carrington was said to have incurred the wrath of his neighbors by his sympathy for the southern cause. It was said that he flew a secession flag from his barn until a mob of irate Bristol and Terryville residents tore it down in the spring of 1861.

Whatever the case, in 1896, Silas Carrington put the farm on the market. According to accounts, it was not a hot item. One newspaper described it as "an ordinary Connecticut farm, and as time went on, it became more and more like all the rest, a thing of the past."

The place did capture Father Martin's eye, however, and on a summer evening, Carrington gave the Waterbury priest a tour. "Going about the place in his bare feet with long flowing hair and whiskers," the *Hartford Courant* reported, "Carrington showed up the beauties of the place in an interesting way." One of the property's features was "a pond which cost the Carringtons about $1,500 and which was used as a water supply for the house and barns, but didn't work as they wished."

Martin apparently saw possibilities. Shortly after his visit he acquired the property. For his part, Carrington reportedly "left soon after and spent his last days in the South."

Meanwhile, the Waterbury pastor began to reclaim the farm. Martin, said the *Courant*, "knew what he wanted to do with the place and did it ... and has reared there one of the prettiest country places of its kind in the state."

The 1906 *Courant* account of the farm said that Martin first occupied the old Carrington homestead, but then built "another house on a bluff not far from his original place where a view of the surrounding territory can be had that is not surpassed hereabouts. He located the house on the brink of a high precipice and it can be seen for miles around. He calls it the House on the Hill and he has a couple there taking care of it. There he goes every week and has the quiet that he has looked forward to. The view from the house embraces country for twenty miles in three directions. The smoke of Hartford and the Capitol dome can be seen far away."

Martin transformed the pond behind the original house into "a pond lily preserve and there he raises quantities of pink and white pond lilies that are the delight of everybody who sees them."

Visitors from Bristol and surrounding communities, said the *Courant*, "find a welcome there and all agree that if there were more men like Father Martin in Connecticut the articles on the rundown condition of the farms in this old commonwealth would not need to be written."

Martin had turned the farm into "a thing of beauty. There are plenty of like places about the state and it needs but the hand of such a man as Father Martin who has an inherent love of nature to make of such farms desirable places."

Source: Hartford Courant, May 31, 1906.

Website offers information on 9th Regiment Vicksburg monument plan

Progress continues in the effort to construct a monument at Vicksburg, Miss., to honor the 9th Connecticut Volunteers of the Civil War.

Bob Larkin, chairman of the committee working on the project, has established a 9th Regiment monument website that contains information on the monument effort as well data on the regiment itself and the dedication ceremony held each November at the regimental monument in New Haven. A new feature of the website will be the posting, at the suggestion of Pat Heslin and with the help of Bob's son, Jim, of short write-ups and pictures of members of the regiment.

Bob has tentatively set a date of Feb. 23 for the next meeting of the Vicksburg monument committee. It is hoped that Mike Mathieu, of Mathieu Memorials and Granite Works in Southington, will attend the meeting with a representative of Royal Melrose of Minnesota. They will present their proposed design for a monument, one of several under consideration. The monument will be constructed at a site in the National Military Park on the western side of the Mississippi River at Vicksburg.

Correction

In the Autumn 2005 issue of The Shanachie, we mistakenly identified James T. Mullen, who served in the 9th Regiment and later became the first supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, as Thomas Mullen. Our apologies.

The 9th Regiment participated in the unsuccessful 1862 Union campaign to capture Vicksburg.

For additional information, contact Bob Larkin at (203) 272-6301. Or visit the website at www.jimlarkin.com and click on 9th Regiment. Donations for the project can be sent to the Irish History Round Table, 9th Regiment Vicksburg Monument, Box 6028, Hamden 06517. Checks made out to IHRT should contain on the memo line, the notation, "Vicksburg Monument."

The Shanachie

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President Jeanne Roche Whalen
Vice President George Waldron
Secretary Maureen Delahunt
Treasurer Tom Slater
Shanachie Editor Neil Hogan, (203) 269-9154

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"We have kept faith with the past; we have handed a tradition to the future."

— Padraic Pearse

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